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<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike, S. R.
<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	American Redstart, S. R.
<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Spotted Sandpiper, S. R.
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	White-crowned Sparrow, S. V.
<i>Totanus flavipes</i>	Yellow-legs, S. R.

(To be Continued.)

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## Teratological Notes.

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### I. AN ABNORMAL SPECIMEN OF TARAXACUM.

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A. M. KIRSCH

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In the spring of 1895 there appeared on the lawn in front of the University of Notre Dame some peculiar specimens of common Dandelion, (*Taraxacum officinale*, Weber.), one of the most remarkable of them is still kept in the herbarium of the Botanical Department. A photograph of this plant was taken at the time of collecting and a copy of this is here reproduced. The plants, about 35 to 40 in number, came up from a particularly well manured plot some twenty-five feet square and were found in patches of three or four plants not far from a large clump of shrubs of *Philadelphus coronarius*, Linn, 1753, on the extreme northeastern corner of the University Quadrangle. They were so conspicuous by their size and proportions that they attracted immediate attention.

Every one of the thirty-five or forty plants was more or less abnormal by the growing together of from three to ten scapes topped by the same number of perfect sessile heads. The one here illustrated was, however, particularly remarkable in this respect as it consisted of a cluster of from sixteen to eighteen heads sessile on the top of a large hollow scape nearly one and one half inches in diameter formed by the coalescing of the individual scapes of the separate heads. The compound hollow scape was fluted or rather ridged, of almost uniform diameter throughout and tomentose-pubescent all along its length of about five inches. The individual heads were closely aggregated on a broad hemispherical expansion at the top of the scape, the whole cluster of heads being about three inches in diameter. Each head had its own separate involucre. The large scape arose from the center of the rosette of leaves, ordinary in outline, size, and general appearance. From the base and surrounding the large scape



PLATE III.

AN ABNORMAL SPECIMEN OF *TARAXACUM OFFICINALE*, WEBER.

there arose about twenty-four ordinary single headed dandelion scapes perfectly normal in every respect.

The following year the plants were to a large extent again abnormal but the aggregates of heads were not as large as the preceding year, and were fewer in number. In succeeding years the phenomenon was not noticed as the lawn was kept closely cropped and special efforts made to eradicate all the dandelions, as the plant had by this time become quite a nuisance hereabouts.

Owing to the fact that the spring was moist and warm and the locality was more than ordinarily manured in fall there is little doubt that the peculiar state of the plants was due to extraordinary conditions of nutrition. The specimen collected was as is evident from the plate very young and had not even attained to maturity in bloom. All the scapes were as yet brown in color due to the fact that chlorophyl in the scape and involucre had not developed. Specimens of plants with two or three heads on a scape are quite common but specimens like the one described are quite rare. Plants outside the small patch scattered over the rest of the lawn were to all appearances quite normal.

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## Microscopy Notes.

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### I. SIMPLE METHOD OF EASILY RESOLVING MICROSCOPICAL TEST-OBJECTS.

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A. M. KIRSCH.

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Even the amateur microscopist has come to recognize that the value of a microscopical objective depends on the ease with which it will resolve with perfect clearness certain test objects usually diatoms with delicate markings. One of the most difficult of these diatoms as a test is *Amphipleura pellucida* Kg. the striae of which number about 96,000 to the inch. It is claimed that a good one-twelfth inch immersion lens will bring out these delicate lines to the vision, but the writer has tried this with a number of such objectives under the various directions usually given, but always with very doubtful if any success. In experimenting for a long time with various objectives it was found that the fault lies not with the objectives, nor with the mounting medium usually balsam, but rather with the method of illumination of the test-object.